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Testimony of Patricia Taylor
Director of the Plastics and Waste Reduction Project, Environment and Human Health, Inc.

Raised Bill 5139 - AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR TIRES

To Chairmen Senator Cohen and Representative Gresko and Members of the Environment Committee:

As Director of the Plastics and Waste Reduction Project for Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI), I want to express two objections to the bill which prevent my support.

This bill seeks to establish an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program in Connecticut which will shift the legal and economic responsibility for discarded tires to U.S. tire manufacturers and U.S. tire importers.

- The plan described in this bill will be developed and implemented by a tire stewardship council made entirely of tire industry representatives.

The exclusive character of the tire stewardship council is a serious shortcoming.

The stewardship council should include environmental and health scientists, environmental NGOs, and community advocates and residents. Residents from environmental justice communities, in particular, should have seats at the table in this council.

- Currently, **no state regulation prevents recycled waste tires from causing harmful exposures to human health.**

This bill should specifically state that recycled tires shall not be used in places where toddlers, children, students, or athletes play. The protection of human health must be stipulated in this bill.

For these reasons and as part of EHHI's mission to protect human health from environmental harms, I cannot support Bill 5139.

Thank you for your attention,
Patricia Taylor, Director of the Plastics and Waste Reduction Project
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
Submitted February 24, 2022